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## BRIEFING PAPER: US POLICY TOWARD TAIWAN

### Major Issues

- o The US broke diplomatic relations with Taiwan (which we previously recognized as the Republic of China) in 1979, when we established formal relations with Beijing. Since then, unofficial relations with Taiwan have been conducted within the framework of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), enacted by Congress in 1979 to authorize "the continuation of commercial, cultural, and other relations between the people of the United States and the people on Taiwan."
  - Relations are also regulated by the terms of three US-PRC joint communiques which address issues such as US recognition of Beijing as the sole legitimate government of China, acknowledgement of the Chinese position that Taiwan is a part of China, and the US commitment to reduce gradually the quantity and quality of its defensive arms sales to Taiwan.
- o As a major affluent world trading partner, Taiwan continues to use its economic clout to upgrade its international relations.
  - Recognizing the constructive role Taiwan can play in international trade, the US worked actively to enable Taiwan's full participation in APEC and has worked actively in support of Taiwan's GATT application.
- o (ONLY IF ASKED) In accordance with the TRA, the US sells defensive arms to Taiwan, bearing in mind our commitments to the PRC.

### US Objectives/Policies

- o Our major goals are to balance and fulfill our obligations under the TRA and our commitments to the PRC in our three joint communiques, to promote a continued reduction of tension in the Taiwan Strait, to encourage further progress toward political and economic liberalization on Taiwan, and to resolve outstanding trade issues, including a rapidly declining but still large bilateral trade deficit.
- o By scrupulously observing the parameters of our unofficial relationship with Taiwan, we hope to avoid raising the Taiwan issue as a source of major contention between the US and Beijing. This policy will benefit both Taiwan and the US by ensuring that tensions in the Taiwan Strait do not escalate and thereby threaten the peace.

## TAIWAN TERMINOLOGY

### DO's & DON'T's

- o DO USE "Taiwan Authorities," DON'T USE "Taiwan Government"  
" " CCNAA " " "Republic of China"
- o DO USE "Taiwan representatives," DON'T USE "Government Officials"
- o DO USE "unofficial meeting," etc. DON'T USE "Official meeting"
- o DO USE "AIT Consultant," DON'T USE "USE/ Government Official"
- o DO USE "Unofficial Relations," DON'T USE "Diplomatic relations"